

"In short, attract new businesses that manufacture or provide services that are consumed outside our community connected to bluegrass music and attract people to Owensboro, the epicenter of bluegrass music."

Joslin said Owensboro began celebrating its bluegrass heritage during the early 1980s, when a concert series was formed pairing bluegrass artists with the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra.

"I think it demonstrated that bluegrass music could be a differentiator for this community, creating something unique, creating something that no other community has," he said.

Joslin said the opening of the Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum at 311 West 2nd St. in Owensboro in 2018 signaled to the world that the organization means business and is part of an economic strategy that begins with cultural tourism, and can grow as more and more people and industry related to the music industry comes to the city.

"I have said before that I believe that most communities like ours, they want to be known for something," Joslin said. "Something that matters, something that is authentic and compelling, something that has a positive, tangible impact on their community. I can tell you that if the news of that something extends beyond the city limits and the county line, well there is opportunity there, and opportunity attracts people, it attracts investment."

"Friends, I can tell you that this is our time, this is our opportunity, and we are claiming it today as the Bluegrass Music Capital of the World."

Mike Simpson, chairman of the International Bluegrass Music Association, provided a brief history of the bluegrass musical genre.

"The odyssey of this original American art form started right down the road here in Ohio County, and much of its history can be traced right here to Owensboro, Kentucky," Simpson said.

Simpson cited early bluegrass musicians Arnold Schultz, Pendleton Vandiver and his grandfather, Cleveland Baize, as forging a music combining Irish, Scottish and blues music.

"Pendleton Vandiver had a nephew by the name of William Smith Monroe that listened to that music, and he and his brothers, Charlie and Birch, they left Ohio County and they took it to the world," Simpson said. "In 1936 they signed a record deal with RCA Victor, and soon the bluegrass music was being spread across radio airwaves across this country."

Simpson said in 1945, bluegrass came to the Grand Ole Opry at Nashville's famed Ryman Auditorium when Chubby Wise, Howard Watts, Lester Flat and Earl Scruggs stepped onto the stage.

"That was bluegrass' sonic boom," Simpson said.

Today, bluegrass is a celebrated part of Owensboro's culture. With the only dedicated Bluegrass Hall of Fame and Museum, the annual ROMP Festival attracting 25,000 annually to enjoy bluegrass and roots music, as well as bluegrass-themed media being created in Owensboro, it has become ingrained in the city's culture.

Simpson said Owensboro being officially known and celebrated as the "Bluegrass Capital of the World" was "a long time coming."

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 453, David L.

Cohen, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 454, Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 521, Jonathan Eric Kaplan, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 617, Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 621, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 623, Michael M. Adler, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium.

REMEMBERING ANDREW FRANKLIN ALEXANDER

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator BLACKBURN, I ask unanimous consent that the following remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to further honor the life of Andrew Franklin Alexander, the late son of former Tennessee U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HONORING ANDREW FRANKLIN ALEXANDER

Andrew Franklin Alexander, age 52, passed away December 31, 2021 after a short illness. Drew was born in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1969. He moved with his family to Nashville, TN when he was one year old. He attended Ensforth School, became a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and graduated from University School of Nashville. He then attended Kenyon College in Ohio where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music. In 1994 he went to work for Curb Records in Nashville as a receptionist. Quickly he rose to lead the company's publishing division. As Vice President of Pub-

lishing, he oversaw the division's forty-five employees and songwriters. A classically trained guitarist, Drew also directed creative and administrative aspects of the company where he set budgets, signed songwriters, negotiated contracts, placed songs, and acquired catalogs.

During his tenure Curb Music Publishing earned eighty-seven ASCAP, BMI and SESAC performance awards, and set records for the fastest rising country single and the longest charting country single in Billboard Country chart history. In 2017, after 23 years at Curb, Drew stepped down from his role as Director of Publishing but continued working with the Mike Curb Foundation. Drew also founded his own company, Blair Branch Music. He became an active community volunteer working with numerous Nashville agencies including Second Harvest Food Bank, Nashville Rescue Mission, and Room at the Inn. Drew's motto was "give more than you take". When he wasn't on the phone raising money for the needy he often could be found serving lunch at homeless shelters.

Drew served on the boards of The Recording Academy, Belmont School of Music, Family and Children's Service, the Community Resource Center, Leadership Music as Treasurer, and the Tennessee Residence Foundation as Secretary. He was a member of the Country Music Association, the Gospel Music Association, Academy of Country Music, and the Downtown Nashville Rotary Club.

Drew helped many artists and songwriters get their start in Nashville and had many friends in the music industry. Over the years he hosted small groups of songwriters and artists, including Lee Brice, Bill Anderson, Kyle Jacobs, Billy Montana, Kelsea Ballerini and many others, at writing retreats at his family's home at Blackberry Farm in East Tennessee, at Evins Mill in Middle Tennessee, and at Bending Lake in Canada. From these dozens of sessions came more than 1,000 songs including many hits. Drew was active with the National Songwriters Association defending songwriters' legal rights.

Drew loved his daughters, his friends and watching sports with them all, especially the Tennessee Titans and University of Tennessee basketball and football—and he loved to fish, traveling around the world in pursuit of new adventures. Drew is survived by two daughters, Lauren Blair Alexander and Helen Victoria Alexander of Nashville; his parents, Honey and Lamar Alexander of Walland, TN; two sisters, Leslee Alexander of Maryville, TN and Kathryn Alexander of Briarcliff Manor, NY; his brother, Will Alexander of Nashville; and, seven nieces and nephews. The Alexander family wishes to express our thanks to Drew's friends Bruce Phillips and Hal Hardin for their many kindnesses to him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOHN VICTOR AMROL, JR.

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to pay tribute to John Victor Amrol, Jr., a long-time New Hampshire resident, State employee, and labor advocate who passed away recently at the age of 85. Born in our State capital of Concord, John was in many ways a quintessential Granite Stater. He had a warm personality, an exceptional work ethic, and a passion

for service that enriched his community and improved the quality of life for so many across our great State.

After graduating from nearby St. John's High School in 1953, John took a job with the State of New Hampshire in our department of transportation, DOT. It was the start of a 44-year career in highway road design. Throughout his long tenure with DOT, John played a role in ensuring that our roadways were developed in a safe and efficient manner. He also served his community and State as a member of the Army National Guard from 1953 to 1978. He retired as a master sergeant, and he was a proud member of American Legion Post 21 for 26 years.

John achieved so much with the department of transportation; yet as a longtime member of the State Employees Association (SEA)/Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1984 and its president from 1991–2000, his true impact transcends all that he accomplished in his decades of work with the DOT. John was a pillar of the SEA/SEIU, serving on nearly every committee and always diving deep into the issues that affected working people and their families. The union represents a wide range of occupations in the public and private sector workforce that provides critical services to our State. Each and every member owes a debt of gratitude to John. He was a force in fighting for their well-being, dignity, and fair treatment. As a negotiator, John was as tough as New Hampshire granite. In fact, his wisdom and judgment at the negotiating table earned him the nickname “The Father of Collective Bargaining for State Employees” among his SEA colleagues. They also paid tribute to John by dedicating their office building on North State Street in Concord in his name.

John was the president of SEA/SEIU Local 1984 when I was elected Governor. We shared a vision of a strong, secure middle class in New Hampshire where hard-working Granite Staters get a fair shot and their fair share, and we knew that unions play an important role in achieving that vision. I could always count on him for a fair, honest, and informed assessment of labor issues.

The Granite State and the many people John served are grateful for his many gifts and powerful advocacy. In the last couple of weeks, family and friends have gathered to share and cherish their many fond memories of him. I am with them in spirit as they reflect on the life of this good and generous man.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT ON JANUARY 3, 2022

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 24. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 3, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEYER) had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1605. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1664. An act to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3537. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bills were signed on December 23, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 23, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1605. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3438. A bill to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3439. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate regulations modifying labeling requirements for beef and beef food products; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3440. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prohibit the Federal Government from limiting State access to key therapies, such as monoclonal antibodies, and from prioritizing Federal contracts over State contracts relating to purchasing supplies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 176

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 176, a bill to require a longitudinal study on the impact of COVID-19.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1675, a bill to improve maternal health.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report examining the feasibility of funding the Universal Service Fund through contributions supplied by edge providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2533

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2533, a bill to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2716

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from